

SBARA's Groundplane

MARCH 2010

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3



ARRL Member
Club Since 1974

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

President's Corner

When I was asked to run for President, I wasn't sure what to think. I was given a sheet of paper that outlined the duties and they seemed simple enough, but I still had some trepidation. What convinced me to give it a try was the promise that I would have the full support of last year's team. So far, that has been the case and I am very grateful for that. We have started the year with a couple of great presentations and raffles. All of this came together with by the efforts of the members of the executive team. I am looking forward to the months to come.

This month, for instance, is home brew month. We will be seeing a presentation from Mike Pechner (NE6RD) about Maker Faire 2010. This will be a short presentation followed by a show and tell of homemade projects. I invite all of you to bring in something you are tinkering with to either show off or get ideas for improvement.

Rita Debras (KI6SSQ) and Bernhard Hailer (AE6YN) have put together the Tri-City VE Group which launches this month. We are very excited

about this because it will help bring more new hams to our club.

Dan Curtis (N6WN) has helped consolidate our inventory of equipment and developed a system to make it easier for members to borrow and use what we have.

This year is also a great year for sunspots. A lot of activity has opened up and we are just getting started. I am hoping many of you will step up to help set up stations during Field Day to take advantage of this.

It is already March and I am thrilled to be a part of this club and I look forward to the accomplishments that lie ahead.

...Jim



Special Interest...

- Presidents Corner
- VE Group Kick Off Exams

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- **March Program**
- **Home Brew Night—
Bring Your Projects!**
- **Maker Faire Presentation**
- **The fun begins at
7:30pm @ Hurricane
Electric**

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Tri City VE Group News

Updated News

Sun spots are increasing. Spring flowers are popping and news is sprouting at our website.

Bernhard Hailer AE6YN and Rita Derbas KI6SSQ kept Umesh Ghodke K6VUG busy adding copy about the Tri-City VE Group to the SBARA website. Check it out.

We've got times and dates, frequently asked questions about exams, grandfathering parameters, and information

about what the session will be like. This site will continue to grow soon adding online links with question pools and study resources.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be part of our Tri-City VE Group. We're excited to launch our first test session March 13. Now's the time to get your upgrade. Tell your friends about our convenient exam location and stay tuned as we grow.

Membership Renewal Information

Membership Renewal Policy

Effective 2010, renewals of membership will only be accepted through March 31st. Beginning on April 1st only new membership will be accepted.

Therefore, after April 1st you will be required to pay the \$10 new membership fee to retain you SBARA membership.

To save on postage please be aware that the renewal package that you received is the only membership renewal notice you will be receiving in the mail. Accordingly, to save postage we are including your 2010 membership card

trusting that you will be sending in your membership renewal fees.

Thank you for your continued support. Looking forward to a eventful 2010.

SBARA Leadership Team

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SBARA To Support 2010 Primavera Bicycle Event

SBARA membership has once again responded to the call for amateur radio support for the Fremont Freewheelers Primavera Bicycle Ride on Sunday, April 11th. Tony Flusche AB6BR, the SBARA - FFW contact announced that the response has been gratifying. A few Volunteers are needed for the opening's that remain, so contact Tony TonyF@att.net if you have been waiting to sign up. This year the SBARA SAG drivers are inviting SBARA members who may not want to volunteer but are interested in going along for the ride to join them as they drive the course and support the riders. It is a good way to have some fun and observe while the SBARA volunteers do their job. Limited seats in the SAG vehicles are available so if interested contact Tony at ab6br@arrl.net to reserve your seat.

SBARA has been asked to provide radio support for the Primavera bicycle Ride on Sunday April 11, 2010. The bike ride starts and ends at Logan High School in Union City, travels south to Ed Levin Park, East/

North up Calaveras Rd to Sunol, East through southern Pleasanton and Livermore to the top of the Altamont Pass then west back through central Livermore and Pleasanton, over the Dublin grade next to 580, south down Palomares Rd. to Niles Canyon and back to Logan High School.

There are options for rides of 25,40,60 and 100 miles. We need to cover 5 aid stations, plus net control and as many SAG vehicles as possible, up to 17. The most important SAG areas to cover with Ham Radio are Calaveras Rd and Palomares Canyon as cell phones do not work there. An HT with any outside the car antenna will work for SAG. An HT with a rubber ducky and 11 hours of battery will suffice at all the aid stations. We will be using the 147.045+ repeater on Sunol ridge. Except in the area of Ed Levin where we will use W6MLP 145.43-

Morning only or afternoon only shifts are available. Contact Tony Flusche at: Tony.F@comcast.net or you may call him at: 510-247-3220.

March Meeting Presentation and Raffle

Top Prize: Yaesu FT 2800 2M mobile radio (\$5 minimum buy-in)
Other prizes include MFJ 1722 Ultralite Dual Band (144/240) HT mag-mount an-

tenna and a pair of tickets to the upcoming Maker Faire.

Featured presentation: HOME-BREW Night *and* a short presentation on the Maker Faire by Michael NE6RD Pechner.

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WIRES and Auto-Dialers

Part 1 - Turning OFF the WIRES Tones on Yaesu VHF/UHF Radios

Yaesu has implemented the WIRES feature in all its VHF/UHF radios. This allows persons with Yaesu radios to communicate with each other over long distances via the Internet. The system requires the local base station or local repeater be WIRES enabled at both ends. The WIRES system uses predefined DTMF tones to provide dialing and control functions but can also be programmed to use custom DTMF tones.

The WIRES system the radios to requires the radios to transmit a preset tone at the beginning of every transmission. Hence, using a WIRES enabled Yaesu radio in a non-WIRES environment causes the first few seconds of the transmission to be muted. This can cause the opening call-sign or words not being heard by the receiving stations.

Generally the WIRES feature can be turned ON and OFF by a single button. This is a convenience as well as a problem since it can get turned ON by accidentally touching that button during the normal operation. There is no option to completely disable the WIRES feature, however there is a way to circumvent the issue. Since Yaesu has incorporated a feature to transmit custom DTMF tones from memory, we simply switch the radio setup to use this custom tones feature and leave the memory blank. This will cause no tones to be transmitted even if the WIRES function gets turned ON by accident!

A quick reference for many Yaesu radios can be found at

www.sbara.org/downloadsYaesu_Radio_WIRES.htm

Yaesu Radio Manuals can be found at www.yaesu.com

Part 2 - Introduction, Auto-Dialer

Let's take a closer look at where the auto-dialer can come in handy. For a long time wireless radio systems have provided interconnection to land based telephone systems via a phone patch. Typically the phone patch is activated by commands in the form of DTMF tones sent from the radio and to make things easy, auto-dialers were incorporated into radios. The user could simple pre-program the auto-dialer with a sequence of digits and use it conveniently, just like speed dialing. More recently, Echolink and IRLP adopted a similar technique of using a set of codes translated into DTMF tones, to activate and control voice connections between two stations over the Internet.

The custom tone dialer can come in very handy for use in all these systems. To do so it is important to understand how the dialer can be programmed via the menu system of the radio. Unfortunately radio manufacturers do not maintain a consistent process for the programming, a few hours with the user manual should do the trick. I have tested it with several Yaesu and ICOM radios with good success, I even use it to send signal test codes to the local repeater! Hope you find it as useful.

73!
Umesh K6VUG

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2010 SBARA FIELD DAY PLANS ARE UNDER WAY

Mark your calendar for **June 25th, 26th, and 27th** for this year's **Field Day Emergency Communications exercise**. Our motto this year is "Lets work together" to improve our local community emergency communications preparedness.

The first Field Day took place in 1934 and was sponsored by the ARRL as it still is today. The object is to practice quickly setting up our radio equipment and seeing how many other Field Day stations we can contact. All equipment must be operated from emergency power such as gas generators or batteries.

This year SBARA will once again be setting up for Field Day in Central Park and will be operating on 10M, 15M, 20M, 40M and 80M during the weekend. As is traditional, we will have a group dinner Saturday at 5:30PM for all the participants, their family and friends.

Starting on Friday the 25th, participants will begin setting up the tents and station equipment and antennas for the 24 hours of operation that begins Saturday the 26th at 11:00AM. Teardown begins on Sunday at 11:00AM and participation in the setup and teardown are important parts of the learning process in preparedness for real emergencies.

Everyone is invited to get involved. If you want to set up a battery powered QRP station or setup on the VHF/UHF bands you will be accommodated at the SBARA field Day. Just speak up and let Al Rendon (wt6k@arrl.net) know your desires. Remember, this is an exercise in Emergency Communications first and foremost.

As they say, "stay tuned in for more details" on this fun filled weekend of amateur radio emergency practice operations.

Ham Test Sessions

The first Tri-City VE ham test session will be held on Saturday, March 13, 9-11:30AM at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Boulevard, Fremont, CA.

The Silicon Valley VE Group will hold test sessions on **Saturday, February 6th**, and **Saturday, February 20th**, at the Sara-

toga Fire Station. Start time is 8AM. Contact Morris Jones at (408) 507-4698 for more info.

If you haven't gotten it already, you will receive a notice from Bernhard about our new Tri Cities VE Group; the first test session will be March 13th.

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T-Hunts and Other Happenings

T-Hunts:

Saturday March 20th, Pleasanton

Hunt 5:00 pm. Talk-in 147.12 + PL
100 Rich KN6FW will be the fox. For directions or more info please call Rich at 925-462-1467.

Other

On the first Sunday of every month, year round, rain or shine. The swap meet has moved to Robertson Park in Livermore. Free parking for buyers. The market opens at 7:00 AM and closes at 11:30 AM.

Visit the [LARK](#) (Livermore Amateur Radio Klub) [swapmeet](#) page for official information and directions. **Talk-in:** AD6X 147.120+ (100Hz PL)

Saturday, March 13 - The Electronics Flea Market (official

site: www.electronicfleamarket.com) is held on the second Saturday (pre-dawn) of each month, March through October. The flea market is operated by [ASVARO](#). See the FARS [calendar](#) (or the [official schedule](#)) for actual dates. The market opens at 5:00 AM and closes at 12:00 Noon. The flea market is located at De Anza College in Cupertino. You can find [detailed directions](#) on the [Electronics Flea Market](#) web site. **Talk-in:** [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL), [N6NFI](#) 145.23- (100Hz PL)

And looking ahead to May...

The 2010 edition of **EMCOMMWEST** will be held the first weekend in May 2010. Starting on Friday, April 30, and running through Sunday, May 2, EMMCOMMWEST will again be hosted in Reno, Nevada.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

[Mark Spencer WA8SME](#) will be our Keynote Speaker at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. A Convention Registration Badge is required

[Lt Col Corey Keppler USAF](#) will host a two-hour forum and Q&A session on *PAVE PAWS* at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

A Convention Registration Badge is required

[David Sumner K1ZZ](#) is Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President, and Secretary of the American Radio Relay League. He will speak at the Saturday night banquet.

A Convention Banquet Ticket is required

[Tom Taormina K5RC](#) will be our breakfast speaker on Sunday morning.

A Convention Sunday Breakfast Ticket is required

Dick Flanagan K7VC

Executive Director EMMCOMMWEST 2010

Discounted rooms are available. Go to <http://www.emcommwest.org/> to register or for more information.



Gene, Rita, and Jim SBARA
February Meeting raffle
Prize Winners!!!



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933 N. Euclid St., 92801
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NEW LOCATION!**PHOENIX, AZ**

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South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Founded 1974
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Refreshments

Open Position

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
 WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2
 WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
 K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0
 K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
 ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm -
 147.015 + PL 103.5

SBARA Meeting Location

Our meeting location is at

Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.

Bring your HF transceiver, antenna) or HT !

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Also consider joining us at Wok City Diner
 for Dinner at 6PM

Mingle with your fellow SBARA members

The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Stat-

utes. We sponsor training for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fre-

mont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!



Announcements

**SBARA's monthly meeting is
March 12th. Beginning at 7:30pm**

**Our meeting location is at
Hurricane Electric. The address in
Fremont is:**

**760 Mission Court —
Come to the meeting and
bring your
HT, HF Rig and Antenna!!**

**The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association —
SBARA
P.O. Box 8401**